

24
Amended

to the determining program, and determines that the predetermined manufacturing process has been executed on the basis of the signal output from the detection means.

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11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a license agreement is provided for a property covering the products or a process for manufacturing the products, under the license agreement, a licensee of the agreement holding the apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing the products, and wherein the monitoring apparatus determines if the products or the process made or used by the licensee is covered by the licensed property, on the basis of operation of the predetermined manufacturing process for manufacturing the products.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 are amended.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants' appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the October 28 personal interview. The substance of the discussions held at the interview are incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification has been amended to obviate the objection. The specification has also been amended to correct an informality.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 14, 2001, has been placed in the application but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Applicants encloses English language abstracts for JP-6-96381, JP-6-119164, JP-8-215992, JP-11-237093 and EP-1033799. JP 2957133 and JP 2957154 corresponds to USP's 6,018,977 and 6,067,833 respectively. JP-B2-2737415 is described in the specification of page 1, line 24.

The Examiner is requested to initial and return form PTO-1449 attached hereto.

III. Claim 3 Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 3. Claim 3 has been amended to obviate this objection. Claim 8 has been similarly amended.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 4,787,050 to Suzuki. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Suzuki does not disclose determining if a predetermined manufacturing process for exploiting a property licensed by a license agreement has been executed, as recited in independent claims 1 and 6. Instead, Suzuki discloses duplicating software onto a floppy disk or a cassette tape. See, e.g., col. 5, lines 33-34. The method of copying is not licensed, therefore the process is not monitored.

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent 5,925,127 to Ahmad. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

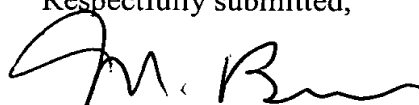
Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 6, previously indicated as containing patentable subject matter. Ahmad does not provide the deficiencies of Suzuki.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MQB/ldg

Attachments:

Appendix
Petition for Extension of Time
Form 1449 with 5 English language Abstracts

109077

Date: November 5, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>



APPENDIX

Changes to Specification:

Page 12, lines 2-21:

In the section for storing programs (MEb) of the memory ME, there are stored a plurality of manufacturing (working) programs (a, b, c and so on) corresponding to a plurality of processes performed in the processing unit CPU (the offset spinning process, oblique spinning process, and coaxial spinning process, according to the present embodiment), among which a predetermined manufacturing (working) program is selected by the processing unit CPU to be executed. As a result, the products will be manufactured in such a manner as described in a published European Patent application No. EP1053799A2, ~~the content of which is herein incorporated by reference.~~ Those manufacturing (working) programs may be stored in the memory ME of the controller CT as they are. Or, a support software may be stored in the memory ME, so that the manufacturing (working) program is produced by the support software automatically, when the dimensions or the like of the products to be made are input through the input device IP. The plurality of manufacturing (working) programs (a, b, c and so on) may be formed into a single program, to be distinguished by flags or the like.

Page 12, line 22-page 13, line 18:

As indicated by the ~~two dotted~~ two dotted chain line in FIG.1, the monitoring device RY includes a determination device DT constituted in the processing unit CPU, a storage device MEb constituted in the memory ME, and an output device OTb constituted in the output interface OT. The determination device DT has a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing programs, or independently therefrom, and determines if the predetermined manufacturing program (e.g., the program for the offset spinning process) has been executed among the plurality of manufacturing programs (a, b, c) corresponding to the plurality of

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manufacturing processes (the offset spinning process, oblique spinning process and coaxial spinning process). For example, provided in advance is a flag for the process directly corresponding to, or specific to the offset spinning process or oblique spinning process, and if the flag is read in the program, then it can be determined that the program for the spinning process has been executed, so that the spinning process has been performed. The determination device DT may be constituted by a program coupled with the manufacturing programs (a, b, c), or may be constituted by another computer (not shown) and the program provided separately.

Page 14, line 14-page 15, line 13:

Next will be explained the operation of the oblique spinning apparatus as disclosed in ~~Japanese Patent No.2957154 and the~~ U.S. Patent No.6,067,833, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference. The oblique spinning apparatus, which serves as the manufacturing apparatus MC, is adapted to apply the oblique spinning process or the co-axial spinning process to the end portion of a cylindrical member (not shown), with reference to the flowchart as shown in FIG.2. As a result, is formed the cylindrical member as shown in FIGS. 6 and 8, one end portion POB at the left side of which is reduced in diameter about an oblique axis to a central axis of an unprocessed portion UNP, and the other one end portion PCO at the right side of which is reduced in diameter about an axis co-axial with the central axis of the unprocessed portion UNP. Furthermore, if the offset spinning process as disclosed in ~~Japanese Patent No.2957153 and the~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,018,972, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference, the offset spinning process may be performed by the manufacturing apparatus MC, with the operation necessary for it added to the above-described spinning process. Then, is formed the cylindrical member as shown in FIG.7, one end portion POB at the left side of which is reduced in diameter about the oblique axis to the central axis of the unprocessed portion UNP, and the other one end portion POF at the right

side of which is reduced in diameter about the offset axis to the central axis of the unprocessed portion UNP.

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim 1-4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11:

1. (Amended) A method for monitoring the status of manufacturing products continuously according to one of a plurality of manufacturing processes, comprising:

determining if at least a predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process for exploiting a property, licensed by a license agreement, out of a plurality of manufacturing ~~programs~~ processes corresponding to the plurality of manufacturing processes has been executed;

storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process, when it is determined that the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process has been executed; and

outputting the stored number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises: a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing ~~programs~~ processes, or independently therefrom.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: detecting operation of a ~~certain-driving~~ device operated according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process; and outputting a predetermined signal, on the basis of which it is determined if the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~ process has been executed.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the determining step comprises:

a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing ~~programs~~processes, or independently therefrom,

and wherein the storing step comprises:

storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process, when it is determined that the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed according to the determining program, and determined that the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed on the basis of the output signal.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing products continuously according to one of a plurality of processes, comprising:

determination means for determining if at least a predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process for exploiting a property licensed by a license agreement out of a plurality of manufacturing ~~programs~~processes ~~corresponding to the plurality of manufacturing processes~~ has been executed;

storage means for storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process, when the determination means determines that the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed; and

output means for outputting the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process stored in the storage means.

7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the determination means comprises a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has

been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing ~~programs~~processes, or independently therefrom.

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

detection means for detecting operation of a ~~certain driving~~ device operated according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process, and outputting a predetermined signal,

and wherein the determination means determines if the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed, on the basis of the signal output from the detection means.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the determination means comprises a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing ~~programs~~processes, or independently therefrom, and wherein the storage means stores the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process, when the determination means determines that the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed according to the determining program, and determines that the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process has been executed on the basis of the signal output from the detection means.

11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a license agreement is provided for a property covering the products or a process for manufacturing the products, under the license agreement, a licensee of the agreement holding the apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing the products, and wherein the monitoring apparatus determines if the products or the process made or used by the licensee is covered by the licensed property, on the basis of operation of the predetermined manufacturing ~~program~~process ~~corresponding to the process~~ for manufacturing the products.